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Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.62

Human rights and cultural diversity

1. In the first preambular paragraph:

(a) Delete "and the relevant provisions of";

(b) Insert after "Cultural rights," the words "the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,";

(c) Insert after "Racial Discrimination" the words "the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment".

2. Add new preambular paragraph after the existing first preambular paragraph, reading:

"*Welcoming* the designation by the General Assembly, in its resolution 53/22, of the year 2001 as the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations, and recalling General Assembly resolutions 53/117, 53/133 and 53/140 and Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1998/21, 1999/25 and 1999/78".

3. In the existing second preambular paragraph, for the words "that numerous instruments within the United Nations system promote and protect cultural diversity" substitute the words "instruments within the United Nations system which promote cultural diversity as well as the conservation and development of culture".

4. Insert the following preambular paragraph after the existing second preambular paragraph:

"*Reaffirming* the universality of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all".

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5. In the existing third preambular paragraph:

(a) Delete the words "and nations" after the word "peoples";

(b) Replace the word "mankind" with the word "humankind".

6. Replace the fourth preambular paragraph with the following paragraph:

"*Noting* that in a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multicultural world, no society is beyond the dangers posed by the absence of tolerance and the violence which this can breed".

7. In the fifth preambular paragraph:

(a) Replace the words "must be respected and preserved" with the words "deserves recognition and respect";

(b) Replace the word "mankind" with the word "humankind".

8. In the sixth preambular paragraph, replace the words "would enhance the right of all peoples and nations to preserve their cultures and traditions and engage in ..." with the words "enhances engagement in ...".

9. In operative paragraph 1:

(a) Replace the words "the right of all groups and nations to" with the words "the importance of being able to";

(b) Replace the words "their cultural heritage and traditions" with the words "the cultural heritage of all people";

(c) Delete the word "international".

10. Insert a new operative paragraph after operative paragraph 1, reading:

"*Emphasizes* that while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms".

11. In operative paragraph 2, replace the words "peoples and nations will enhance" with the word "enhances".

12. Replace operative paragraphs 3 and 4 with:

"*Underlines* the right of everyone to take part in cultural life and also underlines the right of all peoples to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development".

13. Replace operative paragraph 5 with:

"*Stresses* the importance of duly taking into account the issue of human rights and cultural diversity during the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations;"